

How to  
get a grant  
from NIA



# Rule #1

If you do not apply,  
you do not get funded.

# Rule #2

Know what to apply for.

Rule #3

Know when to apply.

# Rule #4

Know what resources are available to help you.

On not applying...

“I heard that it’s so competitive now that a new investigator has no chance of funding.”

She has no chance of funding if she does not apply.

On not applying...

“Joe Smith got funded under that special program. That was a one time only deal. There’s no point in my applying.”

There are many funding opportunities available but only if you apply.



On not applying...

“I applied once and the people who reviewed my application did not understand it. So I didn’t get funded. What’s the point in my applying again?

On not applying...

You might get paid next time.

On knowing what to apply for...

NIA supports 38 different mechanisms.

37 of these mechanisms are not the “R01”.

# On knowing what to apply for...

Profile of a typical R01 grantee:

Has been in the research field post PhD/MD for several years; will have more than a few first-authored, peer-reviewed publications; will likely have been reviewing papers for journals for some time; will be known to colleagues in the research field; **WILL HAVE A PRIOR GRANT HISTORY.**

WILL HAVE A PRIOR GRANT HISTORY....

# On knowing what to apply for...

R03 pilot grants

R21 planning grants.

AREA (R15) grants  
(Academic Research  
Enhancement Awards)

Funding on someone else's  
grant (e.g., minority  
supplements...)

Career awards (K-series)

Fellowships (F-series  
awards)

Other (non-NIH)  
sources of support

# On knowing what to apply for...

## NIA Pilot grant program (R03)

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) is seeking small grant (R03) applications in specific areas to: (1) stimulate and facilitate the entry of promising new investigators into aging research, and (2) encourage established investigators to enter new targeted, high priority areas in this research field. This Small Grant (R03) Program provides support for pilot research that is likely to lead to a subsequent individual research project grant (R01) that is focused on aging and/or a significant advancement of aging research.

\$50,000 (direct costs) for one year.

Receipt dates: March 20, July 17, November 16.

1. HIV/AIDS and Aging
2. Racial/Ethnic Differences and Health Disparities:
3. Cardiovascular and Cerebrovascular aging:
4. Stems Cells, Tissue Repair, and Cell Replacement in Aging:
5. Neural Modeling:
6. Sensory and Motor Processing:
7. Cognition in Context
8. Alzheimer's Disease Drug Discovery:
9. Extracellular Matrix and Cytoskeleton:
10. Functional Senescence:
11. Psychoneuro-immunology:
12. Vaccine Development



13. Health-related Consequences  
of Female Reproductive Aging:

14. Biology of Age-related  
Prostate Growth:

15. Cancer in the elderly:

16. Metabolic Regulation:

17. Basic Underlying Mechanisms  
of Musculoskeletal Aging:

18. Animal Models of Aging:

19. Tools for Research on the  
Genetics of Aging:

20. Genetic Epidemiology:

21. Pilot Data Collection in  
Population Aging:

22. Improved Measures and  
Methodologies:

23. Personality, Experimental  
Social Psychology , and  
and Organizations

24. Work, Older Workers, and  
Organizations

2. Racial/Ethnic Differences and Health Disparities: (a) Research leading to identification of underlying mechanisms, including cellular and molecular mechanisms, linked to racial/ethnic differences in late life function or disease e.g. cognition, Alzheimer's disease, cardiovascular disease, cancer, infectious diseases, and diabetes. (b) Research to disentangle the effects of socio-economic status, social and environmental factors, health behaviors, and race and ethnicity on health; and (c) Research to develop and improve instruments and methods, including standardization across population groups, to measure disorders, disease and disability in minority groups that will lead to an understanding of the causes of these conditions. NIA's strategic plan for addressing health disparities is available from: <http://www.nih.gov/nia/strat-planhd/2000-2005/>

# On knowing what to apply for...

Minority supplements

(and disability supplements and re-entry supplements)

Aimed at particular target groups, not limited by research area.

The candidate works with a funded investigator to prepare an application for a supplement to the funded investigator's grant.

The purpose is either to introduce an individual to research or to advance the individual to the next level of research training or support. Available at any level – high school through investigator.

More information:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-99-104.html>

Also MERIT minority supplements

# On knowing what to apply for...

Research career development awards at NIA.

K01 — Mentored Research Scientist Development Award

An early or mid-career award for individuals with some prior postdoctoral research experience.

K02 — Independent Scientist Award

An early-to-mid-career award for individuals with prior grant funding who seek to become leaders in their research fields.

K07 — Academic award

An infrastructure-building award for acknowledged research leaders who wish to build aging research, or an aspect of aging research, at their institutions

# On knowing what to apply for...

## Research Career Development Awards

### K08 — Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award

An award for junior clinicians with little-to-moderate research training who wish to become independent clinician-scientists.

### K23 --- Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award

An award for junior clinicians with little-to-moderate research training who wish to become independent clinician-scientists trained in patient-oriented research.

# On knowing what to apply for...

Research Career Development Awards  
contd.

## K12 — Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Program Award

An award for research leaders to provide research training and mentoring to several junior clinicians who wish to become independent researchers.

## K24 --- Mid-career Investigator Award in Patient-Oriented Research

An award for mid-career clinician-scientists who wish to devote more time to patient-oriented research and to mentoring junior clinicians in patient-oriented research.

# On knowing what to apply for...

Research Career Development Awards  
contd.

K25 --- Mentored Quantitative Research Career  
Development Award

An award for relatively junior scientists who have been trained in quantitative disciplines who now wish to develop their careers in biomedical research.

K26 --- Midcareer investigator award in mouse pathobiology  
research

An award for mid-career scientists who have experience in mouse pathobiology research who wish to devote more time to that research and to mentoring junior scientists in mouse pathobiology research.

# On knowing what to apply for

Academic Research Enhancement Award

Last issued:

NIH Guide, February 11, 1999, PA Number: PA-99-062

Updated information available at:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/area.htm>

Application Receipt Dates: May 25, September 25, January 25.

For pilot studies, feasibility studies, secondary data analysis, small scale research etc.

\$100,000 over three years.



On knowing when to apply:

When are you likely to be competitive?

How long does it take to get an award?

The more that you know about the process in advance then the less time it takes.

## What help is available?

At your institution: Find out!

In your professional society:

Are there programs for new investigators?

Many societies organize events sponsor conference travel, arrange meetings with grants administrators etc.

## What help is available?

At NIA: The NIA web page:

<http://www.nih.gov/nia/>

How to contact me:

Robin Barr

E-mail: [rb42h@nih.gov](mailto:rb42h@nih.gov)

Tel.: 301-496-9322 (I prefer E-mail.)

Call about training, fellowships, career awards, minority supplements. Or other stuff!